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Artist Statement

As a high school student walks into their classroom, a poster with the title “Treatment of Women in Literature” can be expected to be posted on their walls. While never acknowledged officially by the teacher, this poster will catch the student’s eye when they look around the room during a lesson or after a test. The purpose of this infographic is to encourage the next generation to write meaningful female representation in literature and other forms of media. My audience is high school students between 9th grade to 12th. The intention is to encourage this generation to be the change that we see when it comes to the lack of diversity. The reason I chose an infographic to display my point is it fits my audience and having gone to high school myself, I can attest to seeing similar posters around where we are asked to reflect on our writing and also asked to be the change in this generation.

The success is that this poster gets the point across well, and the reader is aware of the messages being sent. The other success is the poster is aesthetically pleasing to look at, so the high school student will definitely read over these words, within the pauses of life. The limitations are that there’s very little space to include more information, and the reader is left to interpret small bits of information. On the other hand, one could argue that having multiple posters up on a wall, in a long, lengthy essay would definitely be overwhelming to the reader, and would discourage the reader from caring about the message being sent especially when it comes to a high school student.

The modes I chose were text and images. The reason text benefits my work is that it is able to get bits of information across to the student. These texts include information from ancient times where a woman had limited rights to modern times and statistics about literature. A statistic was included of the percentage of women portrayed in literature to emphasize despite being half the population, they only make up 30% of literature. The second mode I chose was images. There were several images displayed such as multiple women side-by-side supporting each other. The reader is able to understand through these images that women should come together and support each other. It also shows a sense of community between these women. Another image that is shown is a megaphone. It's supposed to make the reader think about speaking up, or in the case of the infographic, writing better female representation. Another image that was included, was the theater masks for Greek tragedies when talking about Sophocles. The reasoning behind this is that Sophocles was a play writer above all else, so the masks were to emphasize this point.

What I would've done differently is include more statistics on women in literature, so that the reader could truly understand the point that is trying to be stated. I also would have chosen a different form, instead of doing an infographic I would have done a PowerPoint, this way I could display more information to the students in a simple form without overwhelming them. Having never done an infographic I wanted to challenge myself because I've done several power points in my academic career, but rarely get a chance to experiment in other forms.